

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

37 States and 2 Territories Have Enacted the Nurse Licensure Compact: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming have enacted the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). In 2021, Guam and the Virgin Islands were the first US territories to enact the NLC.
<https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

Status of Pending NLC States

Vermont (36): Pending implementation on Feb. 1, 2022. Vermont residents will be able to apply for a multistate license as of that date. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in Vermont until implementation is complete.

Pennsylvania (37): NLC enacted July 1, 2021. Implementation date is to be determined. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. PA residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in PA until implementation is complete.

Ohio (38): NLC enacted July 1, 2021. The implementation date is Jan. 1, 2023. Ohio residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in Ohio until implementation is complete.

Virgin Islands (39): NLC enacted Dec. 6, 2021. Implementation date is to be determined. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. VI residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in VI until implementation is complete.
<https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

New Jersey Completes Implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact: On Nov. 15, 2021, New Jersey completed the process of implementing the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs), whose primary state of residence is in an Compact State to hold one multistate license, with the authority to practice in person or via telehealth, in both their home state and other NLC states. In March 2020, the New Jersey Board of Nursing partially implemented the NLC by permitting nurses who resided in other compact states with an active multistate license in their state of residence to practice in New Jersey. As of November 15, 2021, the NLC is now fully implemented in New Jersey. Full implementation will allow nurses whose primary state of residence is New Jersey to apply for a multistate (compact) license.
<https://www.ncsbn.org/16368.htm>

US Virgin Islands Become Second US Territory to Enact Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC): The NLC was signed into law on Dec. 6, 2021, making the U.S Virgin Islands the second territory and the 39th jurisdiction to enact the NLC. The compact allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in person or via telehealth, in both their home territory/state and other NLC states. Although the NLC has been enacted in the Virgin Islands, an implementation process must be

completed before its residents will be able to apply for a multistate license and before nurses in other NLC states who hold a multistate license will be able to practice there. The implementation date has not been set. Full implementation may take anywhere from six months to one year. With the multistate license, nurses are able to provide telehealth nursing services to patients located in NLC states without having to obtain additional licenses. A multistate license facilitates cross-border practice for many types of nurses who routinely practice with patients in other states, including primary care nurses, case managers, transport nurses, school and hospice nurses and many others. Further, military spouses who experience moves every few years also benefit greatly from the multistate license.

New Issue of NCSBN's *Compact Connection* Released: A new issue of NCSBN's *Compact Connection* provides the latest legislative updates, as well as recent and upcoming events and resources on the NLC and APRN Compact. The latest issue's legislative update features the newest jurisdiction to enact the Compact, the Virgin Islands, as well as information on the growth on interstate compacts in many disciplines. In addition, *Compact Connection* includes information on APRN Compact webinars and NLC webinars, free, educational webinars to help nurses, nurse educators, nursing students, nurse employers and stakeholder organizations learn more about the NLC. Subscribe to *Compact Connection* by selecting "Nurse Licensure Compact." <https://www.ncsbn.org/subscribe.htm>

The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators

The ICNLCA facilitates cross border nursing practice through the implementation of the nationally recognized, multistate license through the NLC. The ICNLCA enhances nurse mobility and public protection through maintaining uniform licensure standards among party state boards of nursing; promoting cooperation and collaboration between party states, facilitating the exchange of data and information between party states; and educating stakeholders. The ICNLCA is a quasi-governmental and joint public agency of the party states created and established on July 20, 2017. The Executive Committee is the seven-member elected leadership of the ICNLCA.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact-administrators.htm>

New Rules

The Commission has adopted rules three times since implementation of the NLC. The third set of proposed rules were considered and approved by the Commission at the August 2020 virtual meeting. These proposed rules are effective Jan 1, 2021. These rules include Rule 408 (Federal Criminal Records), Rule 409 (Active Duty Military Personnel or Their Spouses) and Rule 502 (Dispute Resolution). All Compact rules adopted by the Commission can be found at:

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nlcrules.htm>

Resources

Members can familiarize themselves with the governance and processes of the NLC via a number of resources, including FAQs <https://www.ncsbn.org/13627.htm> videos <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlc-videos.htm> , Tips of the Week <https://www.ncsbn.org/13615.htm>.

Making Travel Nursing Easier with a Multistate License Video: This new video teaches travel nurses how the Nurse Licensure Compact and multistate licenses pertains to them. It provides primary state of residence requirements as well as pitfalls to avoid and other helpful information.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/14979.htm>

APRN Compact

Three states passed and enacted the **prior** version of the APRN Compact: Idaho, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Due to lack of progress and failure to reach the critical mass needed for implementation, changes to the Model Compact legislation were proposed to the NCSBN Delegate Assembly August 12, 2020 to increase the likelihood of adoption by states. These changes were approved by the Delegate Assembly. In March 2021, North Dakota became the first state to enact the new APRN Compact. Delaware adopted the APRN Compact in June 2021. A total of seven states must enact the compact for it to become effective.

An article on the recently adopted changes to the APRN Nurse Licensure Compact was published in the October 2020 issue of the Journal on Nursing Regulation, Volume 11, Issue 3. The article is entitled, *Mobility on Deck for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses* by Nicole Livanos, JD, MPP.

Texas Compact Statute

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

https://www.bon.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_nursing_practice_act.asp